

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEBRASKA

GERALD MYERS,)
Plaintiff,) 4:05cv3315
vs.) ORDER
STATE OF NEBRASKA,) ON INITIAL REVIEW
Defendants.)

This matter is before the court for initial review of the complaint filed by the plaintiff, Gerald Myers, a prisoner in the custody of the Clay County Jail. The plaintiff alleges that he is being denied a fair and speedy trial on the charges for which he has been held. However, it is not clear to the court if the named defendant, the State of Nebraska, is involved in the prosecution of the plaintiff. There may be a more appropriate defendant in this case, a matter which the court will leave to the named defendant to investigate and suggest.

The plaintiff does not specify the relief he requests. However, monetary relief cannot be obtained against a state. The Eleventh Amendment to the United States Constitution bars claims for monetary relief by private parties against a state, a state agency or instrumentality, or an employee of a state in his or her official capacity. See, e.g., Edelman v. Jordan, 415 U.S. 651, 663 (1974) ("a suit by private parties seeking to impose a liability which must be paid from public funds in the state treasury is barred by the Eleventh Amendment.").

Although a "person" who may be sued for damages pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983 does include a state employee in his or her *individual* capacity, Hafer v. Melo, 502 U.S. 21 (1991), the plaintiff has not named any individual persons as defendants. Therefore, it appears that the plaintiff may be attempting to sue the State of Nebraska for declaratory and injunctive relief only.

This case is assigned to the docket of Chief Judge Joseph F. Bataillon. However, a Magistrate Judge may conduct initial review. Having reviewed the complaint, I find that this case provisionally need not be dismissed on initial review. Therefore, as initial review of the complaint is now completed, it is time for the plaintiff to obtain service of process, as set forth below. Because the plaintiff is proceeding IFP, the U.S. Marshal will serve the defendant, after the plaintiff completes the appropriate forms.

IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED:

1. To obtain service of process, the plaintiff must complete and return forms

which the Clerk of Court will provide. The Clerk of Court shall send TWO summons forms and TWO 285 form to the plaintiff together with a copy of this order.

2. The plaintiff shall, as soon as possible, send the completed summons and 285 forms back to the Clerk of Court. In the absence of the completed forms, service of process cannot occur.

3. When completing forms for service of process on the State of Nebraska, state agencies and/or state employees in their *official* capacity, the plaintiff must comply with Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-510.02(1), which states in pertinent part: "(1) The State of Nebraska, any state agency ... and any employee of the state ... sued in an official capacity may be served by leaving the summons at the office of the Attorney General ... or by certified mail service addressed to the office of the Attorney General."

The address of the Nebraska Attorney General's office is 2115 State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509.

4. Upon receipt of the completed summons and 285 forms, the Clerk will sign the summons, to be forwarded, together with a copy of the complaint, to the U.S. Marshal for service of process. The Marshal shall serve the summons and complaint without payment of costs or fees. Service may be by certified mail pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 and Nebraska law in the discretion of the Marshal. The court will copy the complaint for the Marshal.

5. Fed. R. Civ. P. 4 requires service of the complaint on a defendant within 120 days of filing the complaint. However, because in this order the plaintiff is informed for the first time of these requirements, the plaintiff is granted, on the court's own motion, an extension of time until 90 days from the date of this order to complete service of process. The plaintiff is hereby notified that failure to obtain service on a defendant within 90 days of the date of this order may result in dismissal of this matter without further notice as to such defendant.

6. If service has been obtained on no defendant by the deadline set forth above, the Clerk of Court shall bring this case to the attention of the court.

7. After an appearance has been filed by a defendant, the plaintiff shall serve on the defendant or, if an appearance has been entered by counsel, upon such counsel, a copy of every future pleading, letter or other document submitted to the court. Parties usually serve copies of documents on other parties by first class mail.

8. The plaintiff shall include with each document submitted to the court a "Certificate of Service" stating the date a true and correct copy of such document was mailed to the defendants or to the attorney of any represented defendant. To send communications to the court without serving a copy on the other parties to the case violates the rules of court.

9. A defendant has twenty (20) days after receipt of the summons to answer or otherwise respond to a complaint.

10. The parties are bound by the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure and by the Local Rules of this court.

11. The plaintiff shall keep the court informed of his current address at all times while this case is pending. Failure to do so may result in dismissal.

DATED this 31st day of March, 2006.

BY THE COURT:

s/ F. A. GOSSETT
United States Magistrate Judge

INSTRUCTIONS: SUMMONS FORMS AND FORMS 285
for plaintiffs proceeding pro se and in forma pauperis

1. A summons form provides notice to a defendant that the defendant has been sued and must answer or otherwise respond to the complaint.
2. A form USM-285 ("form 285") provides directions to the U.S. Marshal as to whom to serve with process and where to serve the defendant(s). The U.S. Marshal serves the defendant(s) without cost to you because you are proceeding in forma pauperis ("IFP").
3. Do not copy your complaint to attach to the summons; the court will do that for you.
4. You may serve only defendant(s) named in the case caption of the complaint. If you want to serve additional defendant(s), you must move for leave to amend the complaint to add the additional defendant(s) to the case caption.
5. Be sure to print your case number on all forms.
6. You must give an address for the party to be served. The U.S. Marshal will not know a defendant's address.
7. For service on the State of Nebraska, a State agency or a State employee in his or her *official* capacity, the address of the Nebraska Attorney General's office is 2115 State Capitol, Lincoln, Nebraska 68509.
8. On the other hand, state employees in their *individual* capacity may be served wherever they can be found and will accept service of process themselves or through a person authorized to receive a summons on their behalf.
9. Where a summons form states: "You are hereby summoned and required to serve on plaintiff's attorney" print your name and address.
10. Where a form 285 states: "send notice of service copy to requestor at name and address" print your name and address.
11. Where a form 285 calls for "signature of attorney or other originator" provide your signature and date the form.
12. Leave the last part of the summons form blank. The court will fill in the number of days in which the defendant must answer, and the court will sign and date the form.